

Landfall Lake



Landfall Lake, which has a .9 mile walkway, was first constructed in 1996 and was completed in 1999. It was part of the states' largest mitigation project of wetlands at the time, which also included 200 acres in Pender County that were turned into wetlands to compensate for the development of the Nicklaus Pines course.

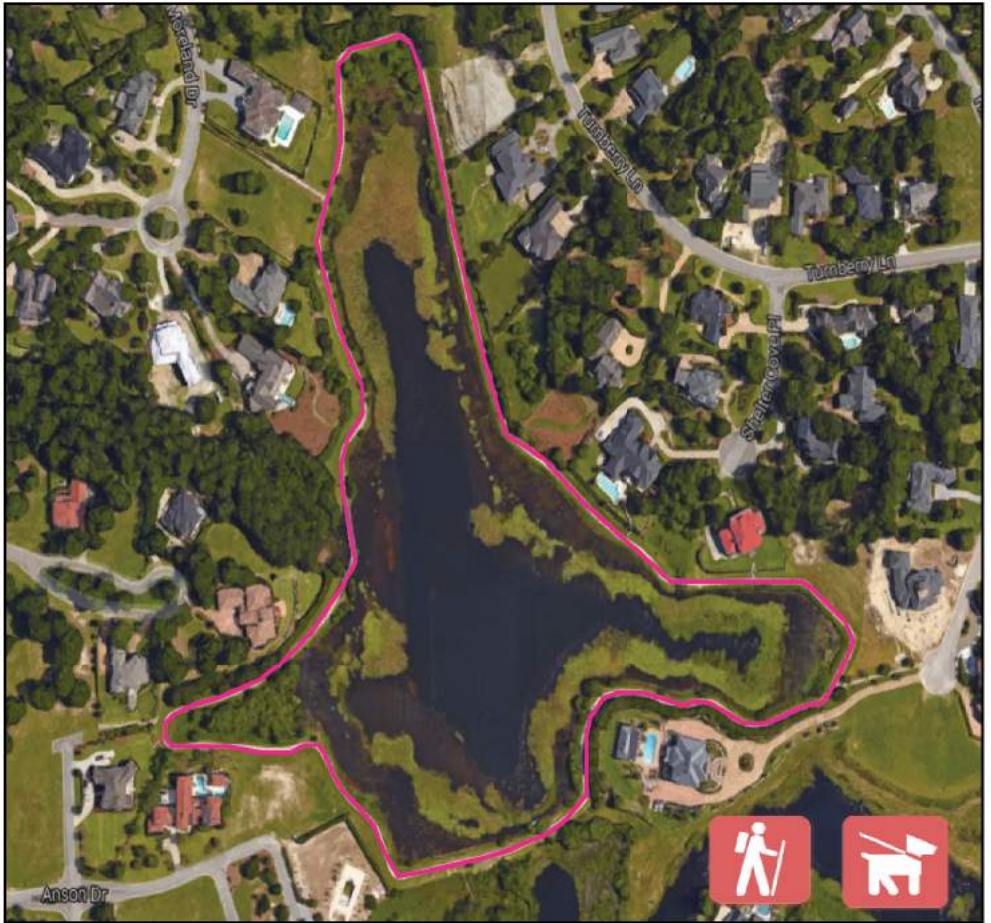
Landfall Lake was designed to have many different depths in order to plant wetland vegetation and trees around the lake. It was not only installed as part of the mitigation project but is also a flood storage structure for 256 acres of drainage. The expansive flat areas coupled with bank and terrace areas around the lake provide for a large storage volume with a relative small increase in lake depth. The buffer areas surrounding the lake serve as wetlands made up of a variety of mixed marshes. A large variety of wildlife now call Landfall Lake home.

Quite often, the question arises as to whether the lake is silting up because of the increase in the vegetation in some areas. These areas were designed and planted with aquatic vegetation and trees to act as a cleaning filter for the storm water. This is a key factor, due to the fact it is the second to the last pond in the storm system before entering the Intracoastal Waterway.

Selective pruning and or removal of certain vegetative plants and or trees are done every winter with the COA working very closely with the Northeast New Hanover County Conservancy agency. This is one of two agencies that have the overseeing rights of the lake. Landfall Maintenance does monthly, quarterly, semi-annual, and annually inspections of the lake to ensure all systems are working and are compliant. These inspections are all documented. Every ten years they are turned into the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Division of Water Quality "NCDENR, the other agency" reviews the documentation to ensure that this environmentally sensitive area is properly maintained before renewing the stormwater permit.

No chemical treatments are allowed in the area. Dredging of the lake can and must be done when 25% of the original depth of the lake is filled with sediment. At this time, with the rate of collection of the sediment it should be many, many years away.

If you have any other questions in which we may help, please contact Steve Hughes at the Landfall COA Maintenance Department 910-256-7604 or maintenance@landfall.org.



Landfall Lake is a constructed water body and part of Landfall's storm water infrastructure. It was established with naturalized plantings to allow nature to provide water filtration. The lake has become a haven for wildlife, including a diverse array of fish, frogs, turtles, and birds. It was designed with an irregular shoreline to create distinct and interesting habitat zones, including shallow-water areas now supporting bald cypress, black gum, and other wetland trees that in turn serve as a canopy for wetland shrubs and herbaceous plants. As a naturalized habitat, it is a place where people can experience and enjoy nature. **This access to nature requires year-round monitoring and maintenance** including routine mowing along the lake's perimeter pathway and labor-intensive cleanup around the lake's fringing wetland areas. This annual task is conducted in winter after flowers have set seed and when birds are not nesting. Subtle changes are taking place as part of a developing management plan undertaken by the Landfall Council of Associations, the Northeast New Hanover Conservancy, (a local land trust organization which has held a protective conservation easement on the lake since 1995), and Andy Wood and Associates,

LLC, a community conservation and environmental consulting company. The work being done includes winter mowing as before, **but instead of hauling vegetative debris away, it is bundled and placed at the lake's edge as a bioengineering strategy to reduce shoreline erosion.** Landfall Lake is

“Water quality conditions in a pond are controlled by both natural processes and human influences...These factors are difficult to control.”

- Vita Obieglo, Marine Biologist



also undergoing habitat enhancement that involves planting thousands of native wildflowers to benefit pollinators, including the iconic monarch butterfly and other beneficial insects that enrich our lives. This project, called Milkweed for Monarchs, was made possible by a generous grant from a lake neighbor, and was implemented by Coastal Plain Conservation Group (CPCG), a local non-profit organization established to protect rare and imperiled plants, wildlife, and the habitats that support them and us.

- Andy Wood, of Coastal Plain Conservation on Group



The Milkweed for Monarchs project got underway on a sunny Saturday in May of 2015 with help from more than 20 volunteers from Landfall and UNCW, who pitched-in with small tools and gloves to install thousands of wetland wildflower plants along the lake's land-water interface. The plants, including swamp milkweed, Joe-pye-weed, New England aster, blue flag iris, blue lobelia, and cardinal flower immediately took hold in their new surrounds, but many of the plants were considered fresh salad greens by the ducks and geese. This was an anticipated outcome that called for each plant's root plug to be anchored into the mud with a shish-kabob stick to prevent the plants being tugged from the mud by hungry

birds. CPCG will continue to install plants around the lake and monitor scarlet milkweed plants located in upland areas near the paved path.

CPCG is developing a Milkweed for Monarchs **citizen science project to engage interested participants in butterfly conservation.** For more information about how you can get involved in this and other community conservation projects in and around Landfall, contact the Landfall Council of Associations, or contact Andy Wood by email at awood@coastalplaincg.org.

In the mean time, I hope you will visit Landfall Lake to observe the positive conservation actions being implemented there to benefit people, plants, and wildlife.

